

1891 Jan 3/40

MONTESSORI NOTES

Montessori school, via Guisti 16. Taken round by pupil of Monsignor George, head of college, who told Mrs. Booth Montessori was a charlatan and the whole thing a money making affair.

Nuns.

Children rushed at us when we came in. Busy with apparatus. "Permesso". Irish nun doubtful. Had heard much of what Americans thought, but little of what English thought. Children in garden. Very formal. Silencio. Calling children.

Children in doors.

Laid table. Said grace. Brought own food.

One little song; catechism in the afternoon, otherwise employed as before.

Training of teachers.

Mostly American, English - one Dane, and a few Swedes. Lectures three time a week from Montessori. Watching at this school. Apparently no actual teaching. Occasional orders.

Talked to Mrs. Urie, young mother from Chicago with baby of 2 1/2. Been there all the winter. Baby at school doing nothing. Very quiet. Auto education. Mother said money very necessary for Montessori experiments. No public lectures. Fees for training \$50 for 4 months.

Miss Scholey, governess at Madame Consolo's. Give views.

Dr. Salomon's ditto.

Lady Aberdeen ditto.

Dr. Baumer equal to head of sent, at the

request of her government, her views.

Marchesa da Viti's At Home. Montessori did not speak.
Like Paderewski.

Books on view in all languages.

School, via Guardino Bruno, 47. Model dwellings. Scene of
Montessori's first experiments. Now no connection - in
fact apparently not friendly. Children drill, gardening,
sing songs, household work. Kindergarten with a few
Montessori apparatus. Children shaken.

School, Adelaide Carrole, via Trionfala, via Guardino
Bruno. This has best teacher in Rome. Visited it with
Marchesa. Lady Aberdeen there.

23 children.

3 teachers.

Public school.

Few flowers; one or two bambini on the walls. No talk
down on timetable. $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before asked to come.

Children speak in whispers, walk on tip-toe. Sht eyes.
Nothing for their imagination; nothing to make; no social
work. Children look very bored. Walk about where they
please. Take easiest work. No effort. Feel round and
round on rough pink paper; match colours; build with blocks.
Write excellently.

35 children enrolled. Lacing by two colours, then one.
Important for them to recognise the surface of a material
through touch. Motor development.

One child tried to build card houses with cards of wool.
Little success. Read as machines. No object what is read.
Montessori refused to answer questions and said all was
in the method.

Montessori's own attitude to children.

Casa da Bambini, via Marzi 60, Piazza S. Lorenzo.

Recommended to go and see.

Casa da Bambini, via Famagostia, via Guilio Cesare.

34 of third class. 8 - 6. Dinner. No handwork.

No applause when Montessori mentioned at Public Meeting
by Mrs. Ogilvy Gordon.

Head of school told me that all that was good in system
was in old Italian book on education.